

"THE PEOPLE'S COMMUNE MOVEMENT"

Draft Regulations for Working People's Commune

Article 1: The people's commune is a basic unit of society in which the working people unite of their own free will under the leadership of the CCP and the people's Government. Its task is to manage all industrial and agricultural production, exchange, cultural and educational work, and political affairs within its sphere.

Article 2: The people's commune shall consolidate the socialist system, and energetically create conditions for the gradual transition to the communist system. To this end we must exert our utmost efforts and press ahead consistently to achieve greater, speedier, better and more economical results in developing industry, agricultural, cultural and educational work and to carry through the technical transformation, so as to reduce the differences between town and country and mental and manual labour. As the social product gradually becomes abundant and the people acquire a high political consciousness, so will the transition from the principle of "from each according to his ability, to each according to his work" to the principle of "from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs" be gradually effected.

Article 3: Citizens who are over 16 years may be admitted as full members. Former landlords, rich peasants, counter-revolutionaries and other persons deprived of political rights may be accepted as unofficial members and, when granted political rights according to law, be accepted as full members. All members are in duty bound to carry out the commune's resolutions, observe labour discipline, and cherish and protect public property. Excepting mental defectives, full members enjoy the right to elect, be elected, vote and supervise the commune's affairs. Unofficial members do not enjoy the right to elect, be elected or vote in the commune, but they enjoy the same economic treatment as full members.

Article 4: When agricultural co-operatives merge into a people's commune, they must turn over all their collectively owned property to the commune, in the communist spirit of large-scale co-ordination. The shares contributed by the co-operative members remain registered in their respective names, but no longer bear interest. Investments which have been made by co-operative members will be repaid by the commune.

Article 5: In changing over to the commune, members of the co-operatives shall turn over to the common ownership of the commune all privately owned plots of farmland, housing, and means of production such as livestock, tree holdings, etc., on the grounds that common ownership of means of production is now in force. Co-operative members, however, may keep a small number of domestic animals and poultry as private property. Privately owned livestock and tree holdings, when turned over to the commune, are to be evaluated and counted as private investments of co-operative members. On applying for membership peasant households who work on their own shall turn over to the commune all their means of production, such as land, livestock, tree holdings, large farm implements, etc., with the exception of a small number of domestic animals and poultry. These means of production are to be valued as laid down for the former co-operatives, as contribution of their share; any surplus is to be regarded as an investment by the owners concerned.

Article 6: To ensure the steady expansion of agricultural output, the commune shall continue to build irrigations works, apply manure, improve the soil, sow good strains of seed over large areas, breed draught animals, prevent and control insect pests and plant diseases, apply rational close-planting, and practise deep ploughing and careful

cultivation. It shall make such efforts to improve farm implements, mechanise agriculture, and electrify the countryside in the shortest possible time. The commune shall develop industry as rapidly as possible. The first things to be done are to open iron, iron and steel plants, and factories to manufacture ball bearings, farm implements, fertilisers and building materials and to process farm produce; workshops to repair machinery; and hydro-electric power projects and other enterprises. The commune shall systematically build roads, dredge waterways, improve means of communications, install telephone services and gradually build up a network of modern communications.

Articles 7 and 8: The supply and marketing department is a basic organ of State trade and part of the county supply and marketing co-operative organisation. Its funds will be provided by higher State trading organs. Its profits must be handed over to higher State trading organs, except in so far as it is allowed to retain a part thereof. Its staff is to be paid by the commune.

The credit department is an agency of the People's Bank. Its funds are to be provided by the People's Bank, but its staff is to be paid by the commune. Its profits must be handed over to the People's Bank except in so far as that the commune is allowed to retain a part thereof.

Article 9: The commune shall, step by step, train its members to be cultured working people with professional skills and all-round qualifications. The commune shall institute a system of universal compulsory education closely combined with labour. It shall take steps to set up primary schools and spare-time auxiliary schools, so that by degrees all school-age children can attend schools, and all young people and adults up to and including middle age can reach a primary school level of education. It shall strive to ensure, step by step, that each section shall have a spare-time agricultural middle school, so that all young people and adults up to and including middle age may attain the educational level of senior middle school pupils. Conditions permitting, specialised schools or universities shall be set up to suit the requirements of the commune. The working hours of members may be reduced and their time for study increased as high production levels are attained. The commune shall encourage and help its members to engage in scientific studies on a wide scale, and in the first place in studies and experiments in good seed cultivation, soil improvement, tree planting, livestock breeding, elimination of insects, pests and plant diseases, and agricultural techniques and implements.

Article 10: A system of citizen soldiers shall operate through the commune. The age groups of young men and men under middle age as well as demobilised servicemen, shall be organised in militia units which shall undergo regular military training and fulfil tasks assigned by the State. Militiamen will be paid the usual wages when they are undergoing training and carrying out assignments. The commune shall assume responsibility for compulsory military service, and assignments to demobilised servicemen. The families of revolutionary martyrs, disabled soldiers and of men on active service which are short of manpower shall, to an appropriate extent, be given special consideration by the commune.

Article 11: As a commune has the same territorial boundaries as the hsiang, that is, one commune to a hsiang, therefore in order to facilitate work and combine the hsiang with the commune the deputies of the hsiang people's congress shall be concurrently representatives of the congress of the commune, members of the hsiang people's council shall be concurrently members of the management committee of the commune, and the hsiang head will be concurrently the head of the commune.

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Article 12: The highest organization of management in the commune is the congress of the commune, which shall discuss and reach decisions on all important communal matters. The congress of the commune shall include representatives of every production brigade and all sections of the people, such as the women, youth, old people, cultural and educational workers, medical workers, scientific and technical workers, the personnel of industrial enterprises, businessmen and members of minorities.

A management committee shall be elected by the congress of the commune to take charge of the commune's affairs. It shall be composed of the head of the commune, a certain number of deputy heads, and a certain number of committee members. Under it there shall be departments and commissions each in charge of different work, such as agriculture, water conservancy, forestry, animal husbandry, industry and communications, finance and food supplies, commerce, cultural and educational tasks, internal affairs and manpower, armed defence, and planning and scientific research. The staffs of the departments and commissions shall be nominated by the management committee, and shall be subject to the approval of the congress of the commune. The management committee may elect a group of standing members to handle its routine work.

A supervisory committee shall be elected by the congress of the commune to supervise the commune's affairs. It shall be under the leadership of the State supervisory organs.

The term of office for members of a congress of a commune, its management committee and its supervisory committee shall be two years. Anyone seriously neglecting his duties may be dismissed by the electorate before his term of office expires.

Article 13: The commune shall institute a system of centralized leadership, with management organs at various levels, in order to operate a responsibility system in production. The commune shall organize its members into a number of production contingents which shall be divided up into a number of production brigades. The production brigade is a unit for managing production and practicing business accounting, while its profits and losses are managed by the commune. (a few words indistinct) The production contingent shall hold a representative conference of contingents' deputies to the congress of the commune. The conference shall elect a contingent leader, deputy leaders, and a certain number of members to form the management committee of the contingent and a supervisory committee. The term of office of members of these bodies shall be one year. A general meeting of members of the production brigades shall elect a brigade leader and a certain number of deputy leaders to form a committee to lead the brigade's work.

Articles 14 and 15: The commune shall operate a wage system when it acquires stability of income and adequate funds and its members are able voluntarily to consolidate labour discipline. The wages of members shall be fixed by the masses through discussion, taking into account the intensity and complexity of the work, the physical circumstances, technique, and attitude to work. Wages shall be paid monthly. Technical allowances may be paid to people who possess special skills. After the institution of the wage system, there shall be periodic reviews and comparisons of work done by the various units and individuals. Those who have worked energetically and do well shall be rewarded, while those who have worked in a slovenly way and failed to carry out their assignments may be penalised by deductions from the wages. Awards distributed in the commune in a year may amount to a maximum of one-fourth of the total basic wage.

With the institution of the wage system, every member may have a day's paid leave each month, and women members three days. Women members may have a month's maternity leave, during which time they

be paid half-wages. Anyone injured in the course of the work will be paid full wages during the period of treatment and recovery. Subsidies will be given out of public welfare funds to anyone whose livelihood is affected by disability due to chronic disease.

Until conditions are mature for the institution of the wage system of piece work, wages may be fixed in value per working day, and members paid monthly according to the number of days worked.

A (one word indistinct) system shall operate when grain production reaches a high level, and provided all members of the commune agree to it. All members shall then be supplied with food gratis, according to the standards laid down by the State and the number of members of each family, irrespective of the number of family members who are able to work.

Article 16: The basis on which the ward system and the food supply system are instituted is that all members of the commune exert their utmost efforts. All members shall voluntarily accept the following obligations: (1) They shall take an active part in labour; (2) they shall protect public property. (3) they shall ensure a quality of work; (4) they shall obey orders and accept transfers; and (5) they shall automatically co-ordinate their work. The commune must strengthen political work and education in communist ideas and, relying on the activists among the poor and lower-middle peasants, initiate communist labour emulation campaigns and reviews so that the principle of 'from each according to his ability' is gradually applied by members of their own accord.

Articles 17 to 21: The commune shall set up service restaurants, nurseries and tailoring teams to free women from household labour. To facilitate management, these restaurants and nurseries shall in general be set up under each production brigade as a unit. Members need not use the restaurant or nursery service if they do not want to. The staff of service restaurants, nurseries and tailoring teams shall be paid wages and supplied by the commune; the charges for the services they render to members shall be in accordance with the principle of "no losses and no profits". The commune shall gradually set up and improve the work of medical establishments, so that gradually the commune shall acquire a central hospital with in-patient wards for serious cases, each contingent its own clinic for out-patients, and each production brigade its own health officer and midwife for the prevention of illness and the care of patients and a midwifery service. Sanatoria shall be set up as conditions permit. Medical care shall be given in the commune on a co-operative basis. Members shall pay a yearly sum depending on the number of members of their families. No other fees shall be charged for any benefits they may receive from medical establishments. In exceptionally serious cases beyond the capacity of the central hospital patients shall be sent to the appropriate hospitals, and travelling and medical expenses shall be paid by the central hospital. The commune will institute free medical care when the economic situation allows.

The commune shall so regulate production and living conditions as to ensure satisfactory living conditions for the aged, the infirm, and the bereft and disabled members with reduced or no ability to work and nobody to depend on. It shall also set up happy homes for the aged who have no children, help them take part in work within their physical capacity, and ensure them the necessary supplies so that they can have a happy old age. Public cemeteries shall be established by the commune.

To improve the living conditions of its members, the commune shall work out and gradually carry out comprehensive, long-term plans for the creation of residential quarters and the building of housing estates. Material and manpower needed for housebuilding under the plan shall be supplied by the commune. Existing houses belonging to members of the

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commune may be dismantled and the bricks, tiles and timber used by the commune as needed. New houses shall be the property of the commune. Their occupants shall pay rents equivalent to the cost of maintenance and repair.

The commune shall promote cultural, recreational and sports activities among the masses, so as to form communist people healthy in body and in mind. It shall have its own library, theatre and film projector teams; the contingents shall have their own club rooms, amateur theatrical groups, choirs and sports teams, and the production brigades shall have small reading rooms and radio sets.

Article 22: The yearly income of the commune as a whole shall be distributed under the following heads:

- (1) Production costs incurred during the year;
- (2) depreciation of public property;
- (3) state taxes;
- (4) food for members of the commune;
- (5) basic wages and awards for members of the commune;
- (6) public welfare funds, in general not exceeding 5% of the total income, to be used for the development of education, health facilities, culture and other welfare services;
- (7) common funds, comprising all the remainder of the income, to be used for stockpiling and expanded reproduction (including the construction of transport facilities). The commune shall gradually build up food stocks sufficient for one to two years, as well as the necessary wage funds.

The distribution of income shall be based on the principle of ensuring the rapid expansion of production, and, with the development of production, wages shall be increased every year; but the rate of increase must be slower than the rate of increase in production. When the average wages (including food stipends) of members of the commune rises to a level that guarantees a living standard equivalent to that of the well-to-do middle peasant, the rate of increase in wages shall be reduced to ensure the growth of industry, the mechanisation of farming and the electrification of the rural areas in the shortest possible time.

Article 23: The commune shall be managed according to plan. It shall work out long-term programmes and yearly plans of construction, in accordance with the economic plan of the State and the specific conditions of the commune. Its plans for production, capital construction, sales of products, circulation of commodities, purchase of machinery and equipment, financial affairs and (one word indistinct) must be submitted to the State planning organisations and other departments concerned for examination, endorsement and balancing before put into practice.

Article 24: A vigorous, regular, democratic life must be ensured in the commune, and in all its contingents, production brigades, factories, mines, lumber camps, stockbreeding farms, tractor teams, schools, hospitals, shops, banks, restaurants and militia units. All organisations subject to audit and accounting must publish their balance sheets and accounts of awards distributed regularly and in good time. All administrative staff must take part in productive labour as far as possible. The masses must be encouraged to voice criticism and self-criticism and commend those who render meritorious service or who put forward suggestions by means of posters in large characters. In this way defects in work can be overcome.

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Article 25: The commune must carry out the policy of running the commune in the spirit of industry and thrift.

Article 26: The commune must establish a strict system regulating financial management. Anyone causing loss to public property by negligence must be criticised or dealt with by disciplinary measures by the commune. Cases of corruption, theft or destruction of public property must be handled in a serious manner; people involved in serious cases must be referred to the higher judicial departments, to be punished according to law. (NCH 4.9.58, ES Supp 334, pp 13ff)